

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

As an initial matter, the undersigned appreciates with thanks the Examiner taking time to discuss this matter in a telephone interview on September 28, 2008, for which an Interview Summary is included with the pending Office Action.

It is further gratefully acknowledged that the Official Action has indicated that claims 4-11 are allowed.

Amendments to the Disclosure

The specification is amended to include section headings.

Claims 4-11 are amended with non-substantive, formal revisions in consideration of U.S. practice and preferences.

No new matter is introduced by way of these amendments.

As the amendments are limited to form, entry of the amendments is earnestly solicited.

Pending Claim Rejections

The Official Action rejected claims 1-3 and 12-13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grunkin et al. (US 6,226,393) in view of Majumdar et al., "High Resolution Magnetic Resonance Imaging: Three Dimensional Trabecular Bone Architecture And Biomechanical Properties," (1998).

In response, claims 1-3 and 12-13 are canceled, without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce the

subject matter of the canceled claims in a continuing application at their discretion.

As all the claims remaining in the application have been indicated as allowed, and there are no other matters pending from the present Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that the present application has been placed into condition for allowance.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that Applicants have fully responded to the October 7, 2008 Official Action and that the claims as presented are patentable. In view of this, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the attorney for Applicants at the number set forth below if the Examiner is of the opinion that there are any further issues to be resolved before proceeding to allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Jeremy G. Mereness/
Jeremy G. Mereness, Reg. No. 63,422
209 Madison Street
Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

JGM/jr